

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKS TO FOUR DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to rise today to give a special thanks for a job well done to four loyal public servants who recently retired from Federal service with a combined total time in the Government of over 100 years: Ms. Joan Barnard, Ms. Charlotte Walch, Mr. Bill Lohr, and Mr. John Shwab. These four hard-working individuals dedicated the final years of their Federal service to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services, ensuring that the unmet needs of mothers and children were identified and addressed.

These four individuals represent the best things in our Nation: hard work, optimism, love of family, and dedication to their country. As I deliver these words of praise, I realize that the people who will miss their work the most are the members of the public who benefited from their hard work, as well as their friends and fellow coworkers.

We wish them all happy retirement and congratulations on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MORTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the girls' basketball team of Morton High School in my district.

The squad recently won its first ever regional title in the Illinois State basketball tournament. In fact, this was the first Morton team—boys or girls—to advance past the regional round of the playoffs since 1972.

Unfortunately, Morton's dream season ended with a defeat to perennial power Mother McCauley in the sectional semifinals last week.

Nonetheless, I congratulate the team and its first-year coach, John Monitor, for bringing home the regional championship and basketball pride to Morton High School.

HONORING BETTIE HELTERBRAN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bettie M. Helterbran will retire from Federal

civil service with the National Guard Bureau on March 30, 1996. Her most recent assignment has been as the Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison, The Pentagon, Washington, DC. Mrs. Helterbran's distinguished career had encompassed over 40 years. She has served long and well and will be missed by the National Guard Bureau and the legislative community.

Mrs. Helterbran started her civil service career on 16 June 1952 at Fort Belvoir, VA. Her first position was as a GS-3, typist, in the Department of Non-Resident Instruction of the Engineer School, in a typing pool using a manual typewriter and individual sheets of carbon paper. Her starting salary was a whopping \$2,950.00 per year. By 1958, she had been promoted to GS-5, statistical clerk. In 1958, she left Fort Belvoir for Fort Greely, AK, and began again as a GS-3 clerk typist, in the S-1 Office at post headquarters. While there she was promoted to GS-4. In 1960 she departed Fort Greely for Fort Knox, KY. At Fort Knox, she was a GS-3, clerk typist/secretary in the commissary office and later a GS-4, secretary in the engineer field maintenance shop. In mid-1961 she departed Fort Knox for Babenhausen, Germany, where she was without employment for 3 years. In January 1965 she returned to Fort Belvoir, VA, and became a GS-4, clerk-typist in the Office of the Adjutant General. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to GS-5, secretary. From there she was promoted to GS-6, awards and decorations clerk, and then on to a GS-7 congressional liaison assistant position and the start of her career in the congressional arena. Over time she was promoted to GS-9, GS-11 and given the title of Congressional Liaison Representative. During this time her position was transferred from the Office of the Adjutant General to the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities.

In 1982, after an uninterrupted 17 years at Fort Belvoir, she accepted a GS-12 position in the Office of Policy and Liaison at the National Guard Bureau. In 1987 she was promoted to GS-13, Congressional Liaison Officer and to GM-14, Deputy Chief, Office of Policy and Liaison in July 1991.

In all areas Mrs. Helterbran has demonstrated a strong sense of loyalty, honor, and distinction as a leader. Her energy and tireless devotion above and beyond the call of duty single her out as one of America's best and reflect great credit upon herself, the National Guard Bureau, and the National Guard of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS OF KAREN

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the great dedication and good work of a Purdys, NY-based organization called Friends of Karen.

When Sheila Peterson heard that the 16-year-old daughter of her neighbor and friend was dying of Lafora's disease in 1978, she knew she had to help. Sheila petitioned the community to help her raise thousands of dollars in order to allow Karen to spend her remaining months at home. After young Karen passed away, it was apparent that the services performed for her and her family were desperately needed by many others, hence the formation of Friends of Karen.

For the past 17 years, this organization has provided financial, emotional, and advocacy support for more than 1,000 catastrophically and terminally ill children and their families. Spending more than \$500,000 a year on as many as 200 families, Friends of Karen spends 80 cents out of every dollar directly on services to those in need. Administrative costs are kept down, by having 11 part-time employees and only one full-timer. In order to accomplish as much as they do, Friends of Karen relies on more than 100 dedicated volunteers.

Social workers at Friends of Karen help families maximize their assistance from insurance plans, government programs, and related community agencies. They provide financial assistance for real life problems related to children's illness. This can include everything from transportation to and from medical treatment, to in-hospital expenses such as telephone, TV, parking, and meals for parents, to child care for siblings, and even to family bereavement support.

Having served on the board of directors of Friends of Karen, I know first hand what a great organization this is. These are people who care deeply about the welfare of sick children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have an organization like Friends of Karen in my community. From the bottom of my heart, I thank Friends of Karen for their commitment to the welfare of our children, and for the tremendous contribution they make to the quality of life in our community.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE ANN GRIEST

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding scholastic achievement of a young woman from my hometown, Corpus Christi, TX. Stephanie Ann Griest, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, was 1 of 20 students chosen nationwide to be a member of the USA Today's All-USA College Academic First team.

As someone who has spent most of their public career promoting educational excellence, I am delighted by Stephanie's success and achievement. The importance, and the value of education are things we cannot emphasize enough to the youth of today. It is with great pleasure that I recognize such an

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

outstanding young woman, student, and community leader. Chosen for her exemplary academic successes and community involvement, Ms. Griest's determination, commitment, and hard work is exactly what we should attempt to encourage in all our students and in all our schools.

I would also like to acknowledge Stephanie's parents, Lloyd and Irene Griest. As a farther, I recognize the commitment parents make in raising their children, and I commend them for the job they have done in raising Stephanie.

I spend a great deal of time in my congressional district encouraging educational opportunities at every occasion possible. My message to young people is: education is the way out—and up. I tell them that education is their right, their responsibility, and their gateway to a better life. As 1 of only 20 students chosen nationwide, Stephanie is capitalizing on that right, focusing on her responsibility, and passing through the gateway to a better life.

I would also like to commend USA Today, for selecting and rewarding these 20 students, and offering them as examples of what our youth are capable of achieving. I encourage other elements of the private sector to take the time, and make the investment in our children, by promoting education and rewarding our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this young lady. Stephanie, you have made us all very proud. Keep up the good work.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago in 1976, the month of February was officially set aside by Congress to pay tribute to, honor, and respect African-Americans who have made key contributions to the diversity and greatness of the United States. The purpose of Black History Month this year is to reflect upon some of the African-American women who have made extraordinary achievements in civil rights, politics, science, entertainment, literature, and athletics.

African-American women have proven themselves invaluable as leaders in the evolution of our great Nation. Their vigorous and passionate participation in the age-old struggle for freedom has resulted in a rich history of heroines. As the list of these women and their accomplishments is long, I regretfully must choose only a few examples.

In July 1849, the ex-slave abolitionist, Harriet Tubman, assisted in the underground railroad to free over 300 slaves. Her courage and selflessness demonstrated her character of integrity and honor while in the pursuit of freedom and right. She is known as the Moses of her people. Nearly a century later, this same courage and fight for equality was demonstrated by Rosa Parks in Montgomery, AL, when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white person when she was ordered to move by the bus driver. As a result of her unyielding character and strong belief in what

is right, a bus boycott occurred, after which segregation on buses was declared as a violation of guaranteed American rights.

Patricia Robert Harris, a lawyer and diplomat, became the first African-American woman Ambassador to be appointed to an overseas post. Three years later, in 1968, Shirley Chisholm was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Recently in 1992, Carol E. Moseley Brown was elected to the U.S. Senate. I applaud my past and current colleagues for their fine and distinguished leadership.

In 1873, Susan McKinney Steward overcame great obstacles to become the first African-American woman to be formally certified as a doctor. Her innovative and stalwart personality enabled her to create the Women's Loyal Union of New York and Brooklyn and to cofound a women's hospital in Brooklyn. The medical field, thanks to her pioneering example, has opened its doors to women. Today, women are entering the medical profession in increasing numbers, often representing a majority of the student body at our leading medical schools.

Additional accomplishments by African-American women in America are found in the space program. Mac C. Jemison was the first African-American woman in space in 1992. Another grand achievement is the work of Katherine Johnson, an aerospace technologist with NASA. She is a pioneer in new navigation procedures to track space missions.

African-American women have excelled in the entertainment world, covering the spectrum of music and dance to books and TV journalism. Due to her outstanding performance in "Gone With the Wind," actress Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American woman to win an Academy Award. Maya Angelou, the actress, dancer, writer, and poet, who is well known for her book "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," stands apart as a distinguished and invaluable asset to a greater understanding in this country. A few years back Toni Morrison was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in literature. News reporter Carole Simpson has made significant advancements in the media profession, moving from a Chicago TV reporter in 1970 to the anchor of ABC's "World News Saturday."

Athletically, African-American women have demonstrated outstanding strength, skill, and discipline in many sports. In 1951, Althea Gibson was the first African-American woman to play at Wimbledon, and later went on to win the singles and doubles title—with her partner, Darlene Hard—in 1957. In the Olympics, Jackie Joyner-Kersey is acclaimed internationally as the world record holder in the heptathlon.

Each of these extraordinary African-American women has set her sights high and tackled difficult challenges to reach her goals. In African-American communities and in all of America, these women provide valuable examples of success. Still, there are countless African-American women who have dedicated their lives to something they wholeheartedly believe in, but many never receive public recognition. I am delighted to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding African-American women of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO THE LYONS, IL, FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has been protecting lives and property in a community for a century—the Lyons, IL, Fire Department.

The department was founded in December, 1895 by village ordinance. But as anyone who has ever had dreams of racing to the scene of a fire in a red engine will tell you, it did not really start until January 21, 1896, when the department's first vehicle, a nonmotorized, man-powered horse car, was purchased.

From those humble beginnings, the department has grown into one of the finest in suburban Chicago.

The village and its fire department will commemorate 100 years of service with numerous ceremonies this year, including a dinner-dance this month, a muster with interdepartmental competition in May, and a picnic for past and present firefighters in June.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the department and its personnel on its century of success and wish them many more years of effectively protecting lives and property in their community.

ALEX WEDDINGTON HONORED BY MERIDIAN'S JUNIOR AUXILIARY AS 1996 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend my friend, Alex Weddington, for being selected Humanitarian of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary in our hometown of Meridian, MS.

The Junior Auxiliary presents the award each year to a person, organization or business in recognition of their contribution to the betterment of the community. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Alex. He is making a positive difference in our community.

I want to share with my colleagues this article about Alex and his work with the Masonic Home for Boys and Girls. It was written by Ida Brown of the Meridian Star.

SPENDING TIME WITH THE KIDS—ALEX WEDDINGTON SHARES TIME WITH CHILDREN FROM MASONIC HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

(By Ida Brown)

Although he looks forward to every day, Meridian businessman Alex Weddington probably enjoys Fridays even more. After a busy week at the office, he and his wife, Ann, usually spend the evening with the kids—all 23 of them.

For 15 years, Weddington's Friday evenings—and many other days of the week—have been shared with the residents of the Masonic Home for Boy and Girls.

"The kids are wonderful and you get so much more out of doing for them than you put in," Weddington said.

"Alex has accepted the responsibility of trying to improve the living conditions of the community," U.S. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery said.

"He's always trying to help someone else . . . He's more concerned helping others than himself," added Noel Evans, executive director of the Choctaw Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. "Meridian is fortunate to have great community leaders such as Alex; they make Meridian a great place to live."

Today, Weddington will be presented the "Humanitarian of the Year Award" by the Meridian Junior Auxiliary. According to Kay Wedgeworth, chairman, the honoree was reluctant when informed that he'd been selected for the recognition.

" . . . He said, 'I'll make you a deal. Give it to the guy who come in second and I won't say a word,'" said Wedgeworth. The award is presented annually to a person, organization or business in recognition of the time, talent and effort which they have contributed to the betterment of the community, particularly youth.

A native of Meridian, Weddington first became associated with the Masonic home out of curiosity.

"I've always had a curious nature. I'd driven by the home hundreds of times and wondered what was up there. One day in 1981, I stopped by and asked Pete Griffis, who, at the time was grand secretary, what it (the home) was about. When he told me they needed help, I told him he had it."

He started out by taking the kids out on Fridays to the movies, skating, camping or to local events and activities. Over the years, this has extended to also include two vacations each year—an early summer one to various locales and one in late summer at his family's home on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sometimes, he just invites the kids to his home, rents movies and orders pizza.

"Each one of these children come from unique circumstances. They're wonderful children and given a chance in life, which is what the masonic home does, they will make something of their lives," said Weddington. " . . . God has really blessed me for being able to help out with these children. A lot of people look at it that the children are blessed; I'm the one who is blessed."

He considers his deeds as "what I'm supposed to do. I think it's what God wants me to do," he said.

"Alex is always doing things for other folks and never wants any recognition," said Fred Bean, who currently serves as grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi and secretary of the board of managers at the masonic home. "He's taken the kids at the home water rafting, camping, on trips to Disney World, Six Flags, Liberty Land . . . He provides them opportunities they may not have otherwise."

His dedication to the kids is solid. He seldom cancels his Friday nights with them.

In fact, on his first date with his wife, the kids went along.

"I called her up and told her I wanted to know what kind of sport she was. I explained that I took the kids from the home out every Friday night and that our first date was going to be with 23 children. I didn't want to disappoint them. I picked her up with 23 kids, a dog and myself . . . She was a good sport."

Commenting on that first outing, Mrs. Weddington said, "It definitely was different from any other date I'd been on. But I knew then that he was special. Here he was a bachelor who had a lot going for him. And on a Friday night when most bachelors were out on a date, Alex was with all of these kids."

"He's a good role model in a time when strong models are needed. He's a good lis-

tener, intuitive . . . and can read those kids like a book. He tries to encourage them to study and that just because they were born under bad circumstances, it doesn't mean they don't have the power to change the course of their lives."

Scouting is one way Weddington has motivated the youth to taking responsibility for their lives. He especially encourages the boys to aim for the Eagle Scout Award.

"Scouting builds character. For the boys, achieving the Eagle Scout Award is one of the greatest accomplishments. This year, Anthony Watkins and Glen Burge both will receive the award; I'm really proud of them."

Scholastic achievement is another source of inspiration. Each year, Weddington takes the three children with the best grades at the end of the semester on a skiing trip in Colorado.

"I try to make sure they really study hard; I've found this trip to be a great motivating factor. Most of these kids have never been in an airplane; it's really exciting for them," he said. "These kids have gone from making 'Cs' and 'Ds' to 'As' and 'Bs.'"

Other ways he has helped the home is by securing funds "for the little extras." In 1985, he enlisted Montgomery's support in sponsoring a golf tournament. Now in its 11th year, the "Sonny" Montgomery-Masonic Home Benefit Golf Tournament has netted more than \$100,000.

Funds are used for outings, trips and other necessities.

But more than anything, it gives them another opportunity to spend time with one of their favorite people. Without a doubt, the kids love Weddington, but not just because he "takes them places."

"He's a great man," said Joseph Walker, 12. " . . . He's very nice but if you mess up, he'll make sure you don't do it again; and you won't."

Sisters Felicia Kern, 12, and Christine, 13, enjoy being around Weddington because "he's fun and has a nice personality."

Glen Burge, 17, describes Weddington as a great person with a big heart.

"He puts in a lot of time with us and cares about us a lot. I really appreciate all that he has done for us and the only way I can pay him back is to say, 'Thank-you.' He's truly a blessing to my heart."

As the Meridian Junior Auxiliary's Humanitarian of the Year, Weddington will receive a plaque and \$500 will be donated in his name to the charity of his choice.

TRIBUTE TO FOOD-PATCH

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to acknowledge the extraordinary work being done by Food-PATCH, an organization in my congressional district.

Food-PATCH, which stands for People Allied to Combat Hunger, is dedicated to alleviating hunger while minimizing food waste in Westchester County, NY.

This 7-year-old organization was formed as a nonprofit emergency food distribution center. With financial support of Kraft Foods and Diversified Investment Advisors, Food-PATCH began its work in a 13,000-square-foot warehouse in Millwood, NY. With the help of 10 full-time, 6 part-time employees, and more than 8,000 volunteer hours, Food-PATCH distributed more than 3 million pounds of food to

more than 140 emergency food providers last year. This translates to more than 8 tons of food a day to soup kitchens, food pantries, Head Start programs, shelters, senior programs, AIDS programs, and many others that provide meals for 220,000 individuals.

In short, Food-PATCH has been dedicated to ensuring that no one in Westchester County goes to bed hungry. Food-PATCH's T-shirts bear this motto and I and hundreds of others from Westchester County proudly wear ours in tribute to this wonderful organization.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we must be especially mindful of the needs of others, I ask you to join with me in honoring the men and women at Food-PATCH who keep the true spirit of this season all year long.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL MIJARES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Mr. Manuel Mijares, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the city of Brownsville TX, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as the honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a 4-day international event which invites the United States and Mexico to join together in celebration of the distinct cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances, and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a major function which is eagerly anticipated by many South Texans as well as our winter visitors.

We are honored to recognize Mr. Manuel Mijares as the 32d Mexican citizen chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association. He began his career as a backup singer for the well-known Mexican pop star Emanuel. But this was just the beginning. In 1986 he released his first album entitled "Mijares" which quickly earned silver and gold status. His international acclaim is evident in the many awards he has received throughout Latin America, the United States, and Japan. Some of his awards include: the Golden Award Medallion in Japan, the Latin Music Award in the Dominican Republic; Revelation in Mexico; Ovacion for outstanding artist in Chicago; Antorcha de Plata award from Chile; Premio AC; History of Spectacles in New York; Aplauso 92 in Miami, and Galardon a los Grandes in Mexico.

In addition to his musical talent, Mijares has also been praised internationally for his presence in the theater. He is a regular guest on "Siempre en Domingo," "En Vivo," and "Eco"; popular international television shows. Disney has also recognized and selected this talented and versatile artist to sing the Spanish themes for "Oliver and Company" and "Beauty and the Beast." It is not only this type of talent which transcends cultural lines that we recognize today, but it is also his compassion for the well-being of his audience. Despite the numerous awards for his artistic talents, Mijares has also demonstrated a concern for development of teens in the United States. One example of his community involvement is his participation in a fundraiser the Los Angeles Police

Department held to raise money for a project to aid youth, which works to improve the attitudes and behaviors of preteens in Los Angeles, CA. The event was attended by 40,000 people.

Mr. Manuel Mijares is a perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award. For he has, over the long period of his career, taken his unique song, screen, and stage performances to numerous countries, including sold-out performances in the United States. A true ambassador of his country and of his culture, he has been praised by numerous organizations for his unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Manuel Mijares should be recognized for both his artistic ability and his contribution to the commitment to bicultural relations between nations.

Mr. Amigo, Mr. Manuel Mijares, will receive the red-carpet treatment when he visits Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During his stay on the border, he will make personal appearances in the parades and at other festival events. Official welcome receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, TX, and the cities of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Manuel Mijares for being honored with this special award.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON SHER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished assemblyman of the 21st assembly district of California, Mr. Byron Sher. He represents a number of communities in San Mateo County and my Congressional District does overlap some of the areas in his State assembly district. We have worked together on many issues for the people of San Mateo County.

This coming weekend, the San Mateo County Democratic Party will salute Byron Sher at a special appreciation dinner held to recognize the service he has rendered to the people of California. After a successful career in the California Assembly, Byron Sher will retire at the end of this legislative session. He will have completed his eighth term in the assembly and is not permitted to run again because of term limitations.

Byron has based his long and productive political career upon the strong foundations of a distinguished academic career. After an ambitious undergraduate career, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1952. Byron went on to teaching positions at some of the leading law schools around the country, including Southern Methodist University of Southern California and Harvard Law School. Currently, he is an emeritus professor of law at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA.

Byron has been active in local and regional government since he came to Palo Alto in 1957. In this time, he has repeatedly shown his commitment to the community. He was a member of the Palo Alto City Council for 9 years and served two terms as mayor. For

many years, Byron has given time to local, State, and national environmental boards.

As a member of the California State Legislature, Byron has many notable achievements. He is the author of landmark laws to protect California's environment, including the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination from leaking underground storage tanks. He is consistently rated among the top legislators by the most respected environmental, consumer, law enforcement, education and housing groups. I applaud his conscientious hard work on the part of our community and California.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Byron Sher as he completes a record of distinguished service in the California State Assembly. The people of San Mateo County and the people of California have been well served by his leadership and advocacy in the State assembly.

TRIBUTE TO OUR LADY OF THE RIDGE'S FIFTH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young ladies from my district, the fifth grade girls' basketball team of Our Lady of the Ridge School.

This squad of eight determined players won the South Suburban Catholic Basketball League title this season, the school's first-ever championship. The girls combined strong rebounding, spirited defense, and relentless hustle into a 14-win season.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate coaches Mike Grove and Brad Liston, as well as their players: Katie Pratl; Megan Liston; Kellie Pratl; Katie Roe; Jackie Grove; Kelly Liston; Colleen Madej; and Laura Dirschl. I wish them continued success on and off the court.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYMAN BYRON D. SHER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Byron D. Sher, assemblyman of the 21st District of California, a scholar, a dedicated public servant, and an ardent protector of the environment.

After receiving his juris doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1952, Byron Sher has held various academic teaching positions in law at Southern Methodist University, the University of Southern California, and Harvard Law School. He became a Stanford University professor of law specializing in consumer credit, consumer protection, contract and commercial law. Colleagues and students have held Byron Sher in their highest regard for his intellect compassion, and dedication to education.

A resident of Palo Alto since 1957, Byron Sher felt a call to public service and has been an active participant in local and regional government. He served on the Palo Alto City Council for 9 years, two terms as mayor. He was also a commissioner of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a member of the Committee on Environmental Quality for the National League of Cities and the League of California Cities, and a member of the policy advisory board of the League of California Cities' Solar Energy Program.

In November 1980, Byron Sher was elected to the California State Assembly and has served eight terms. His outstanding leadership has been greatly valued in the State legislature where he has served as chairman of the assembly natural resources committee of 10 years. He currently serves on the committees of budget, natural resources, and public safety. He is also a member of the energy committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL], and serves on the California Commission on Uniform State Laws. Colleagues from both sides of the aisle applaud his effective and compassionate service to the people of California.

Dearest to his interests has been the environment, which he has continuously protected as a legislator. Byron Sher has authored landmark legislation, including the California Clean Air Act, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Nation's first law to prevent toxic contamination from leaking underground storage tanks. He has authored laws to strengthen the State's timber regulations and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, and has added new rivers to California's Wild and Scenic River System. He is consistently rated among the top legislators in Sacramento by environmental groups.

Mr. Speaker, Byron Sher is a most distinguished individual and one of the most respected elected officials in the State of California. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him.

HMONG REFUGEES IN THAILAND

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a letter from Wendy Sherman, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the State Department, in response to my concerns regarding Hmong refugees in Thailand. I am pleased that the State Department has made progress with the Royal Thai Government in gaining access to Hmong refugees. On behalf of the Hmong community in Rhode Island, I will continue to monitor this important issue.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION,

Washington, DC, January 22, 1996.

Hon. JACK REED,
House of Representatives

DEAR MR. REED: Thank you for your letter of November 28, 1995 regarding your concerns for Hmong refugees in Thailand.

First, let me assure you that we share your concern for this special population. Since

1975, we have resettled approximately 249,000 Lao refugees (mostly Hmong) out of Thailand. We have provided a large share of the support that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has received to maintain refugee camps and we and non-governmental organizations assist programs in Laos for refugees who have elected to return home. With only some 6,000 Lao refugees remaining in camps in Thailand we are committed to these same two solutions: voluntary repatriation and third country resettlement.

As you state in your letter, we have for some time requested permission of the Royal Thai Government to be allowed to interview those remaining Hmong and other Lao refugees in camps in Thailand who may wish to resettle in the United States. In November, a team of officers led by Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary Charles Sykes went to Bangkok specifically to discuss this issue. I am pleased to report that we reached an agreement in principle with the Royal Thai Government for U.S. access to Hmong and other Lao in the first asylum camps in Thailand. We are now working to finalize the agreement and hope to begin processing this population in early January. Within the FY 1996 refugee admissions ceiling there are sufficient numbers available for approved Lao-tian cases to be admitted to the U.S. this fiscal year.

We would also like to assure you that, contrary to reports, to date, no asylum seekers or refugees have been forced to return to Laos. Approximately 23,000 Lao (mostly Hmong) have returned voluntarily to Laos since 1980. From all reports, including non-governmental organizations working in Laos and from U.N. officials, there is no persecution of returnees. The United States and other governments contribute to reintegration programs which assist returnees to resettle in Laos. UNHCR has Hmong- and Lao-speaking monitors who travel throughout the country to assist returnees and to monitor their situation. These monitors have reported no persecution of returnees.

We hope that the above information addresses your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact this office again if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

WENDY SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

SALUTING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FELIX LODGE NO. 3

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an esteemed historical institution in the District of Columbia, Felix Lodge No. 3. The Felix Lodge, the second oldest Prince Hall Masonic Lodge in the District, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 1996.

The Felix Lodge has traveled a long and distinguished road from its inception, when meetings were held in the loft of a stable just outside Washington. Chartered on April 4, 1846, by the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Felix Lodge was named in honor of Brother Felix Dorsey, who was a deputy grand master of the Hiram Grand Lodge. Brother Dorsey was pivotal in the advent of Masonry for African-Americans in the District of Columbia.

Through the bravery of men seeking freedom and fraternity, the birth of the Felix Lodge

was quite an accomplishment, especially before the Civil War. Several other sites in Washington, including a carpenter's shop and personal residences, became the lodge's surreptitious meeting sites throughout the 19th century and into the 20th. In 1922, the lodge moved to the Masonic Temple on U Street, in Northwest Washington.

Many prestigious members of the Felix Lodge have served in greater roles of the Masonic hierarchy. George W. Brooks, the first African-American doctor licensed in Washington, became most worshipful grand master in 1878. The Felix Lodge also produced 10 Grand Masters. In addition, the lodge has a proud tradition of trailblazing activities, such as conducting Washington's first black Masonic funeral in 1849, and involvement in civic ceremonies like the opening of Union Station.

Mr. Speaker, the long and eminent history of Felix Lodge No. 3 deserves our attention and respect. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their 150th anniversary and saluting the gentlemen, past and present, of Felix Lodge.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD BROOKS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the many friends and family of Donald Brooks, a leading businessman from my congressional district, who recently passed away.

Donald Brooks, a resident of Western Springs, IL, and owner of Marcia's Hallmark Card Shop, was a longtime pillar of the La Grange, IL, business community. He was a leader in the La Grange Business Association, serving as its treasurer, and he spearheaded efforts to make the downtown retail shopping area among the finest in suburban Chicago.

Mr. Brooks, a pharmacist who owned a drug store for 24 years, was an early organizer of the Endless Summer Festival that brings tens of thousands of residents into the community each summer. In addition, he was an important nuts and bolts organizer who coordinated the LGBA's cable television advertisements and served as the group's pointman on downtown parking issues with village government.

In addition, Mr. Brooks, a graduate of Lyons Township High School in La Grange, served his country as a member of the Air Force Reserve during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sympathy to Mr. Brooks' wife, Marcia Jane, and all his friends and family on the untimely passing of this true community leader.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FERRE FAMILY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences to the Ferre family, a distinguished and dedicated family within the

Miami community and to Metro Dade commissioner and Miami's ex-mayor, Maurice Ferre, who suffered the tragic loss of his son, Francisco Ferre Malaussena, his daughter-in-law, Mariana Gomez de Ferre, and the couple's newly born son, Felipe Antonio Ferre Gomez, on the fatal American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia on December 20.

It is at moments such as these when one asks God for strength and guidance in order to overcome this tragedy that took the life of this young aspiring attorney, his beautiful and well-educated wife, and their adorable, newly born son who were all on their way to the infant's christening in Cali, Colombia.

Francisco, who was a graduate of Boston University Law School and practiced at a prestigious law firm in Madrid, Spain before coming to Miami, was also a young man of noble sentiments who did his best to keep very close ties with his family and befriend all of those he met. Mariana, a native of Cali, was a graduate of Wellesley College where she had pursued a degree in political science and French. Upon graduation from this prestigious institution, Mariana obtained her MBA from the University of Miami.

The newlywed couple, who this January would have celebrated their third wedding anniversary, will be sorely missed by both of their respective families and by all of those who had the honor and pleasure of knowing them and the newest addition to their family.

Surviving Francisco in addition to his father and mother, the Honorable Maurice A. Ferre and Mrs. Mercedes Malaussena de Ferre, are his five siblings: Jose Luis, Maurice, Carlos, Mimi, and Florence. Immediate family members who survive Mariana are her parents, Mr. Gustavo Gomez Franco and Mrs. Maria Cristina Vallecilla de Gomez, and her six brothers and sisters: Enrique, Luciano, Maria Cristina, Roxana, Gustavo Felipe, and Julian.

Once again, I extend my deepest condolences to the Ferre family in these very trying times.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYWOMAN JACKIE SPEIER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished assemblywoman of the 19th assembly district of California, Ms. Jackie Speier. Many of the same communities in San Mateo County that are included in her State assembly district are also within the boundaries of the 12th Congressional District, which I have the privilege and honor to represent.

This coming weekend, the San Mateo County Democratic Party will salute Jackie Speier at a special appreciation dinner held to recognize the service she has rendered to the people of California. After a successful career in the California assembly, Jackie Speier will retire at the end of this legislative session. She will have completed her fifth term in the assembly and is not permitted to run again because of term limitations.

Jackie Speier was born in San Francisco—the daughter of a German immigrant and an

American mother. She attended local schools in south San Francisco and graduated from Mercy High School in Burlington. She received a B.A. from the University of California at Davis and received a law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in 1976.

Following the completion of her education, Jackie served on the staff of our late colleague and my predecessor, Congressman Leo J. Ryan. In November 1978, Jackie accompanied Congressman Ryan to Jonestown, Guyana, to investigate the cult community led by the Rev. Jim Jones. As my colleagues know, Congressman Ryan was killed during that visit to Jonestown, and Jackie Speier was seriously injured at the same time. That was followed by the tragic suicide-murder of over 900 cult members.

After returning to California, Ms. Speier was elected to the San Mateo County board of supervisors in November 1980, where she effectively served the people of San Mateo County for 5 years. During that time she served 1 year as chair of the board. In November 1986, she was elected a member of the California State Assembly. During the decade that she represented the 19th assembly district, Jackie led the assembly's Committee on Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency and Economic Development. She was a constructive and articulate spokesperson and advocate for consumer interests and government efficiency for the people of San Mateo County.

Jackie is the mother of two delightful children—Jackson Kent Sierra and Stephanie Katelin Elizabeth Sierra. Her husband, Dr. Steven Sierra, was killed in a tragic automobile accident in early 1994, a few months before the birth of their last child.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jackie Speier as she completes 10 years of distinguished service in the California State Assembly. The people of San Mateo County and the people of California have been well served by her leadership and advocacy in the State assembly.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN JACQUELINE SPEIER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackie Speier, Assemblywoman of the 19th District of California, an extraordinary, history-making public servant who has protected the rights of many, with special attention to women, children, and consumers.

Jackie Speier has brought a new meaning to the word "courage" as she has overcome tragedy in her own life and dedicated herself to public service. In November 1978, as legal counsel for the late Congressman, Leo J. Ryan, she accompanied the Congressman to Jonestown, Guyana to investigate charges that people were being held hostage by cult leader Rev. Jim Jones. On November 18, cult followers shot and killed Congressman Ryan while Jackie Speier was struck by five bullets. Later that day 911 cult members died.

Two years later, Jackie Speier became the youngest elected member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. She served a

second term and was chair of the board in 1985.

In 1986, she became the first woman elected to the 19th Assembly District of California, continuing to break new ground legislatively. As the chair of the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency, and Economic Development, she led the fight to uncover numerous acts of inefficiency, waste, and abuse of public resources by State bureaucrats who subsequently resigned from office. She also led investigations into unfair and illegal practices of auto manufacturers and dealers, and championed many proconsumer laws.

Jackie Speier's record of having bills signed into law is unprecedented. Among her accomplishments, she has ensured the advancement of women's rights and the protection of children. Some of her legislative achievements include the requirement of insurers to allow women to use their obstetrician-gynecologists as their primary care physicians, creating a voluntary California income tax check-off fund to support breast cancer research, creating the Women's Business Ownership Act and Council, and legislation which would deny professional and drivers licenses to those who fail to pay child support.

Along with her extraordinary work in the legislature, she is the devoted and proud mother of two children. Jackie Speier made legislative history in 1988 when she became the first member of the California Legislature to give birth while in office.

For her accomplishments, she has received a plethora of awards including Legislator of the Year by the California State Bar Association, Women Construction Owners and Executives, Leadership California, National Mobilization Against AIDS, California Women Lawyers, the National Organization for Women, and the Family Service Council.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of Jackie Speier's friendship and have had the honor of working with her as a colleague on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Few legislators are as effective, as respected, and as history-making as Jackie Speier. She is truly one of California's most distinguished women and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

TRIBUTE TO LYONS POLICE OFFICERS JAMES RITZ, CHARLES WRIGHT, AND ROBERT COOK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three police officers from my district who recently went above and beyond the call of duty to save a man from his burning home.

In the early morning hours of January 29, 1996, Sgt. James Ritz, Officer Charles Wright, and Officer Robert Schook of the Lyons Police Department responded to a 911 call from the home of Charles Schmidt, 77. Upon arriving, they discovered smoke pouring out of the house and learned that Mr. Schmidt, who has vision problems and is a partial amputee, was trapped inside. Without a second thought to their own safety, the three entered the building

and groped through its smoke-filled rooms until they found Mr. Schmidt and carried him out of the house.

As Lyons Deputy Fire Chief Gordon Nord said of these three heroes, "To go in with no protection was above and beyond the call of duty. If it wasn't for the three police officers, we would have had one fatality."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sergeant Ritz, Officer Wright, and Officer School for their incredible bravery. All Americans owe these three officers, and all those who risk their lives to protect ours, a debt of gratitude.

LEGISLATION TO ADJUST FEDERAL DEFERRED ANNUITIES FOR INFLATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that indexes Federal annuities for inflation at the time the employees separates. Currently, if an employee leaves the Federal service before retirement he has the option of taking his pension contributions back in a lump sum or keeping them in the retirement trust fund. If he leaves the contributions in, he will receive an annuity when he turns 62. If he takes them out, he can reinvest them in an IRA.

It would be more beneficial for the employee and the Government if the employee left his contributions in the retirement system and earned an annuity at 62. The current system, however, does not encourage the employee to leave the contributions in since the annuity is not indexed for inflation. Thus if an employee with 20 years of service leaves the Government to take another job at age 45, he has the option of taking his money out of the trust fund, the 7 percent of his salary that he contributed over the past 20 years, or leaving the money in the trust fund and receiving his earned annuity when he turns 62, 36 percent of the average of highest 3 years of salary. Since the annuity is not indexed, there is no reason to leave the money in. If the high three averages \$50,000, in the above case, the annuity would be \$17,000 at separation. But after 17 years of average inflation, this \$17,000 would have the spending power of only about \$9,000. Under the legislation I am introducing today, an annuity of \$17,000 would maintain the spending power of \$17,000.

The proposal would break the "golden handcuffs" that keep older Federal employees in the civil service. Since the old Civil Service Retirement pension is not transferable, older employees with significant years of service cannot afford to leave the civil service. If they did, they would have to enter a new pension service and begin saving for retirement anew. They would not have the years of investment in Social Security or a 401(k) to rely on. So they stay in the civil service. FERS was created specifically to address this portability problem but it is not enough. Currently, approximately 50 percent of the Federal work force is in FERS. Those who are not are the older employees we want to leave.

Under this legislation, older CSRS employees can leave the Federal Government and take a job elsewhere because they will not

lose their pension. While they will not continue to accrue CSRS benefits, they will have earned a decent retirement income on which they could rely. The proposal will help Federal downsizing and reorganization efforts by allowing older employees to leave.

The proposal would also save money for the Federal Government. If the employee leaves his annuity in the trust fund, there is no outlay from the Federal Government when the employee separates. The immediate savings are significant. The CBO estimates that this proposal would save more than \$3 billion over 7 years.

This is the only provision that will effectively reduce the Federal work force without RIF's. Buyouts are only an option if the employee is close to retirement or already retirement eligible. They do not pare the work force as much as push out those who can already leave. For those Federal employees 40 and over, they are not an option. These employees, however, can find good opportunities outside the Federal work force because they are the most hireable. They do not leave, however, because they will lose the 15 or more years they have invested in the Civil Service Retirement System.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS BIDDLE, THE
PRIDE OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASE-
BALL IN WISCONSIN

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride today that I pay tribute to a great man from the city of Milwaukee, Mr. Dennis Biddle. As one of the finest players of the Negro Baseball League who now resides in the State of Wisconsin, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the life and accomplishments of this truly remarkable man.

Born on June 24, 1935 in Arkansas, Mr. Biddle was blessed with natural-born athletic ability that allowed him to enter the world of professional baseball at the age of 17, making him the youngest player to emerge in the Negro league. As a player for the legendary Chicago American Giants, Mr. Biddle wasted no time breaking through the ranks and rising to the top of the Negro league. In his very first game in June 1953 against the Memphis Red Sox, he struck out 13 players and posted a 3 to 1 victory.

Wisconsin was the site of perhaps Mr. Biddle's finest game, when he pitched against the Philadelphia Stars in Racine. He was facing Gerald "Lefty" McKinnis who was famous for defeating Satchel Paige, perhaps the greatest pitcher in the history of American baseball. Despite his young age, Mr. Biddle led his team to a 3 to 1 victory, and earned the nickname "The Man Who Beat The Man Who Beat The Man", and a place in the heart of baseball fans everywhere.

Because Jackie Robinson already had broken the color barrier, Mr. Biddle knew it was just a matter of time before he would join the ranks of major league baseball. Indeed, his 30-7 record over 2 years in the Negro leagues caught the attention of the Chicago Cubs who pursued Biddle for their squad. Regrettably, Mr. Biddle broke his leg during spring

training in 1955, ending his brief but brilliant pitching career.

Despite the end of his career in baseball, Mr. Biddle remains a powerful force in Milwaukee, lending his rich institutional memory for the betterment of our community. On most weekends, Mr. Biddle can be found speaking with young people, giving them advice and direction through a discussion of his rich life experiences. He is a devoted community advocate, working with Milwaukee youth on a regular basis at Career Youth Development [CYD], one of Milwaukee's premier social service agencies.

Mr. Biddle's experiences and lessons are more valuable today than ever before. Through his lecturing, teaching, and outreach, Mr. Biddle is able to bring us back to a time and a place when baseball was played for honor and glory. Last year, the Negro league celebrated its 75th anniversary, and Mr. Biddle joined with the league's 214 remaining league veterans at their museum in Kansas City. At this reunion, Mr. Biddle reaffirmed his commitment to educating the public about the wealth of history contained in the archives of the Negro league. Players like Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, and Buck Leonard, and teams like the Milwaukee Bears, the Kansas City Monarchs, and the Homestead Grays, whose story must be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Dennis Biddle. I join with the city of Milwaukee in praising this outstanding individual, and wish him continued success in our community.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the annual observance of National Engineers Week, which has just concluded. Samuel C. Florman, engineer and author, defines his profession as "the art or science of making practical application of the knowledge of pure sciences" in his book, "The Existential Pleasures of Engineering." National Engineers Week gives us the chance to remember the role of engineers in making real the American dream and their legacy in the drama of our Nation's history.

That National Engineers Week coincides with the celebration of the birth of the Father of our Country is no accident, as the profession is proud to recognize George Washington as a member. The First President, in 1749, worked as the assistant to the surveyor laying out the plan for the city of Alexandria. Commissioned a surveyor in his own right, Washington undertook the measurement and mapping of the western frontier of Virginia. Washington played a central role in the formation of the Patowmack Co., which sought to make the Potomac the major route for transportation into the burgeoning Northwest Territory. Finally, of course, Washington placed the cornerstone for the Capitol in which we work and devoted a great deal of his time to managing the development of the city that bears his name.

Engineers appear time and again in American history. The Polish military engineer

Tadeusz Kosciuszko built the fortifications which protected American forces during the Battle of Saratoga; the American victory led France to join the war and secured our independence. Civil War commanders such as P.G.T. Beauregard, George Meade, Joe Johnston, and Robert E. Lee saw service as engineers during the Mexican War. Theodore Judah and Grenville Dodge constructed the first transcontinental railroad. John A. Roebling and his son Washington raised the Brooklyn Bridge. The Wizard of Menlo Park, Thomas Edison, fired the imagination with his continuing output of new technologies that changed the lives of ordinary people. Engineers were central to America's ability to meet one of humanity's ultimate challenges, to travel away from the Earth and walk upon the surface of the Moon.

Engineers are the prime movers behind the economic success Americans now enjoy. It is the engineer who recognizes how the science of the laboratory can be used or adapted to fill the needs of fellow citizens safely and efficiently. Absent the contributions of engineers in aerospace, civil, chemical, mechanical, electrical, and other disciplines, we would still be awaiting the fruits of the Industrial and Information Revolutions. The Federal Government's support for scientific research and development has long rested on the view that the results from that investment will be repaid by economic growth and a better quality of life for our citizens. Without engineers, that promise could not be realized.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to recognize in these remarks those engineers who directly serve the public interest in the agencies of the Federal Government. The Committee on Science has jurisdiction over the agencies whose ranks include many of the engineers employed by the Federal Government. They toil in obscurity trying to protect the public health, to advance the state of knowledge in technical fields, and to protect the Nation's safety and security. We in Congress have, many times, given them contradictory guidance in law or asked them to develop regulations that seek to balance incompatible goals. That these efforts fail should not be ascribed to their performance but to our design. I have no doubt that when Congress can implement the reasonable changes to regulatory policies supported by the majority of our Members that the engineers in our service will once again justify our trust in their commitment to the public good they have sworn to uphold.

Recognition is due to the sponsors of National Engineers Week: the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Chair of the 1996 Steering Committee; the American Association of Engineering Societies; the American Consulting Engineers Council; the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; the American Society of Civil Engineers; the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.; the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; the Construction Specifications Institute; the Secretariat of the National Society of Professional Engineers; the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc.; the Society of Women Engineers; and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. Corporations offering their support include 3M; Bechtel Group, Inc.; Chevron Corp.; Eastman Kodak Co.; Fluor Corp.; General Electric Co.; IBM International Foundation; Motorola; Rockwell; and Westinghouse Electric Corp. Agencies like the National Institute of Standards

and Technology, the Office of the Civil Engineer of the U.S. Air Force and the National Academy of Engineering are also supporting this year's celebration.

Mr. Speaker, the President in his message on National Engineering Week "thank[ed] our engineers for their remarkable achievements." I join him in those sentiments and am pleased to honor with him the 1.8 million Americans who proudly call themselves engineers.

SALUTE TO THE 27 ALL-STATE MUSICIANS FROM LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 27 outstanding students at Lyons Township High School in my district who were recently named All-State Musicians.

These talented young people were selected by Illinois music educators during auditions to perform with either the jazz band, jazz choir, band, or chorus, during the all-State conference, held February 1-3, 1996. While many schools will send three or four musicians to this conference, Lyons Township High School will be represented by many times that number.

The musicians include: Lettie Bowers, T.J. Ow, Karen Riccio, Christina Castelli, Jennifer Hsieh, Stephanie Majewski, Christopher May, John Alletto, Molly Comiskey, Kathleen Eich, Ann Fitzgerald, Jim King, Matt Kiverts, Betsy Klaric, Leah Kwilosz, Matt Lauterbach, Dan McKeever, Eric Meyer, Eric Nysten, Tommy Parker, Mike Penney, Amy Ruzic, Justin Sisul, Andrew Stott, Brian Webb, Shane Weber, and Beth Wilkinson.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these fine young musicians and their teachers on this fine honor.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE GARY, FLORIDA PHILANTHROPIST

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the American Jewish Committee in honoring Willie Gary of Stuart, FL.

Willie Gary is an outstanding American whose story must be told. His parents were sharecroppers and migrant farm workers who raised 11 children. When Willie was 13 his father Turner settled his family in Indiantown, FL, where he started a produce business from the back of a truck he had bought with the help of his son, Willie, who had earned the money mowing lawns.

Willie, a high school football star who was determined to go to college, secured an athletic scholarship to Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. While at Shaw he married Gloria Royal. By the time he graduated in 1971 Willie had one son and an successful lawn care business.

But Willie wanted more. In 1974 he graduated from North Carolina Central University

with a law degree and a second son. After his graduation from law school the Gary family returned to Florida. Willie was admitted to the Florida bar and their third and fourth sons were born.

In 1975 Willie opened the first black law firm in Martin County. In 1976 he opened a second office in Ft. Pierce. Today, the law firm of Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney, Lewis & McManus is a large, sophisticated law firm with a national reputation.

Willie Gary and his wife Gloria have given new meaning to the word philanthropy. God blessed Willie Gary with a magnificent legal talent which Willie has used to amass a measure of wealth. But what is really important about Willie Gary is that he has been abundantly generous with both his time and his money to his family, church, community, educational institutions, his alma mater, civic organizations, professional groups, friends, and individuals too numerous to mention.

Willie Gary deserves the American Jewish Committee's Learned Hand Award because he is a mensch. He is a brilliant man who has dedicated his life to his family and ensuring that all members of his community have outstanding legal representation.

Judge Edward Rodgers and I were given the privilege of being honorary cochair of the event honoring Willie. We are both so very pleased to be associated with the American Jewish Committee in honoring this great American.

IN RECOGNITION OF PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Portland State University in recognition of its 50th anniversary. This remarkable urban institution, located in my district, has made important contributions, not only in the Portland metropolitan region, but also on State and national levels.

Portland State University is Oregon's only urban university and its mission is unique among all the other higher education institutions in the State. As an urban university, Portland State seeks to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic qualities of urban life. It also works to promote the development of community-based networks and collaborations to address community priorities through academic and research programs. PSU is a national model for service learning as its faculty are integrally involved in community issues and concerns and work to include such issues in both research and teaching.

Portland State is important to my constituents. Many residents of Washington and Multnomah Counties choose to attend PSU because of its strong academic reputation. These students select Portland State because they can live at home, they can work, raise a family, and go to school at the same time. For many reasons, Portland State is making a difference in the lives of its students.

Since its inception in 1946, PSU has worked to develop a positive national reputation. Today, the university is playing a significant

role in shaping national policy on urban issues. The university is gaining national recognition for its innovative approach to the undergraduate general education experience. PSU's faculty include nationally recognized scholars and its students win regional and national competitions. And, its men's and women's athletic teams often finish at the top of their divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I have been involved with Portland State University for many years. I have attended classes at the university. Students from the institution have been interns and employees in my office. I have also worked with the faculty and administration on many partnership programs that are important to my constituents and the residents of Oregon.

One that I am especially proud of is the work Portland State University is doing with Clatsop Community College and the Oregon Graduate Institute in Astoria, OR. Led by the community college, these three institutions are working with the community to develop the Marine Environmental Research and Training Station, [MERTS]. MERTS will be unique in the Nation. It will combine the assets of two major research institutions with a community college to deliver a continuum of job training and education programs focused on environmental technology. This is just one example of the ways in which Portland State University fulfills its mission.

I am also very pleased that Portland State University has embraced the principles of administrative reform and efficiency. One of this administration's priorities is to "reinvent government" and change the way we do business. Well, Mr. Speaker, Portland State University is a national success story. Under the leadership of President Judith Ramaley, the University has undertaken a major reorganization of its management operation. As a result, Portland State University has continued to maintain high quality academic programs at a time of diminishing state resources. The University was recognized for its efforts by KPMG Peat Marwick as a "national model" for efficient management.

On the august occasion of its golden anniversary, I would like to recognize the contributions Portland State University's faculty staff, and students have made in improving Oregon and the Nation. As the University works towards its 100th anniversary we can expect the same commitment to community and innovative excellence that has characterized its work since 1946.

COMMENDING MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHURCHES FOR FAITH IN ACTION

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend a wonderful project going on in my district that is helping children with disabilities. The Easter Seal Society and a group of Montgomery County churches have created a Faith in Action project that will help youngsters living with disabilities, along with their families.

What is Faith in Action? It is a program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that helps religious congregations and social service agencies create community volunteer service projects aimed at families, elderly persons, and children. The Easter Seal Society for Disabled Children and Adults will work with seven churches, a school, the Montgomery County Department of Disability Services, and Catholic Charities on this effort.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded hundreds of Faith in Action grants to organizations all over the country. Volunteers target families and offer to help in any way they can. In Montgomery County, this can be offering to take a child to the park, drive a youngster in a wheelchair to the doctor, or care for youngsters while parents take a much needed break. In the Washington, DC, region, over 30,000 children under 5 years of age are at risk for developing a disability. That's over a 1,000 classrooms of kindergartners. Also, because of advanced technology, infants born prematurely and with birth defects have a much better chance of survival today than in years past. Often, however, they will need long-term care.

Volunteers from Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and St. Matthew's United Presbyterian Church are good listeners, they have comfortable laps, and are wonderful huggers. They

love to read and tell stories and to sing. They can help feed a child or practice speech therapy exercises, take siblings to the playground, accompany fearful parents to their child's medical appointments, and help advocate for the child. One of the most valuable things a volunteer gives a family is the gift of time and respite for harried parents.

When children are diagnosed with a disability, parents often struggle by themselves. Parents need the right support to insure that their child is receiving the proper medical care, therapy and education. Too many families don't know where to turn. Now, Easter Seals and a group of churches in my district want to help. I congratulate them and wish them good luck.

TRIBUTE TO THE WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO'S STICKNEY FACILITY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that is indispen-

sable to the health and quality of life to the people of not only my district and most of the Chicago area, but anybody who uses Illinois waterways as well, the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

One of the district's main plants, the Stickney sewage treatment facility, was recently recognized with a gold medal for excellence from the Association of Municipal Sewage Agencies for its complete and consistent compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. The facility takes in more than three-quarters of a billion gallons of waste water, every day, and successfully removes pollutants and other solids before discharging the water back into the State waterway system.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the district's Board of Commissioners, led by President Thomas Fuller, as well as Stickney plant manager Allan Crowther, Deputy Chief Engineer Don Wunderlich, and all the district workers who made this achievement possible.